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CIVIL SERVICE OFFICIALS ("BEAMTE") IN THE GERMAN ARMY (WEHRBEAMTENTUM)

Central European Division Report No. 8

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CIVIL SERVICE OFFICIALS ("BEAMTE") IN THE GERMAN ARMY(1)
(WEHRBEAMTENTUM)

There is in the German Wehrmacht a sharper and more complete separation between the functions of the fighting soldier and the functions of the army administrator than exists in most of the armies of the world, including the United States army. Both tasks are performed by trained professionals and neither one is asked to perform the duties of the other. It is the function of the soldier officer to train his men as armed fighters and to lead them in battle as it is the duty of the civil servant official of the Wehrmacht to organize army administration and to provide the troops with the essential means to enable them to perform their special tasks as fighting soldiers. Consequently, the German army possesses a vast corps of civil service officials (genuine "Beamte") who discharge most of the duties which in the United States army are performed by commissioned officers. Briefly, all the work which in the United States army is performed the Judge Advocate General, the Finance Department, the Quartermaster General, the Engineer Corps and Ordnance Department, that is to say, by commissioned officers, are performed in the German army by professional civil servant officials attached to the Wehrmacht.

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(1) Sources: Das Buch vom Heer, Berlin, 1940; M. A. Report 62[illegible] by Lt. Col. Truman Smith, November 10, 1939; numerous handbooks on Verwaltungsdienst.

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CIVIL SERVICE OFFICIALS ("BEAMTE") IN THE GERMAN ARMY[1]
(WEHRBEAMTENTUM)

There is in the German Wehrmacht a sharper and more complete separation between the functions of the fighting soldier and the functions of the army administrator than exists in most of the armies of the world, including the United States army. Both tasks are performed by trained professionals and neither one is asked to perform the duties of the other. It is the function of the soldier officer to train his men as armed fighters and to lead them in battle as it is the duty of the civil servant official of the Wehrmacht to organize army administration and to provide the troops with the essential means to enable them to perform their special tasks as fighting soldiers. Consequently, the German army possesses a vast corps of civil service officials (genuine "Beamte") who discharge most of the duties which in the United States army are performed by commissioned officers. Briefly, all the work which in the United States army is performed the Judge Advocate General, the Finance Department, the Quartermaster General, the Engineer Corps and Ordnance Department, that is to say, by commissioned officers, are performed in the German army by professional civil servant officials attached to the Wehrmacht.

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It is often said that this is a relatively recent development. But this is by no means the case. It was already true of the armies of Frederick The Great. Indeed, one may hazard the statement that the Prussian bureaucracy from its very inception was designed, in addition to its tasks of civil administration, to assume all those duties which in other modern armies were assigned to commissioned officers. The official designation of a civil servant in the days of Frederick The Great, was "Kriegsrat" or war counsellor. It is none the less true, however, that in the reorganization of the German Wehrmacht in the late 'thirties. This system of using trained and professional civil servants for the purely administrative work of the army was considerably extended. The technological character of modern warfare demanded this extension.

General Remarks on the "Wehrmachtbeamte". The civil servant officials of the Wehrmacht are not full-fledged soldiers according to German legal conceptions but occupy, rather, a dual position. On the one hand they are by legal definition "Reichsbeamte" i.e. civil servant officials. As such they are subject to the German administrative law governing officials, and may be transferred from one division of the civil government to another; hence, they may be serving one year in the Ministry of Agriculture and in the next year in the Army or Navy. On the other hand, they are also members of the Wehrmacht (see Wehrmachtgesetz #21 Art.1.),

and as such they are subject to the laws and ordinances governing the life of soldiers. They wear a variety of special uniforms. These uniforms are closely akin to those of soldiers, but differ from the latter by their dark green color, and are further distinguished by other collar and cuff insignia. They also have a definite rank as in the case of the soldier, but these ranks are not the same as those of commissioned officers. But the fact that they have a definite rank expresses the close relation between the administrative and fighting elements of the army.

Ranks within the Army Civil Service. The army civil servants always have a definite rank. Their ranks are comparable to those of government officials and are divided into such categories as highest officials, upper middle officials, lower middle officials, and finally, simply officials. These categories are relatively meaningless to one not familiar with the German government bureaucracy, but they correspond to definite classifications of German civil servants. When a German desires to enter upon a civil service career in the German Government, he is classified in one of these four groups according to the general level of his education and the degree of excellence with which he has passed the required examinations. The candidates for the highest civil service positions in the army must have a doctor's degree and a position of reserve officer, or must have passed the examination for reserve officers. In other words, they must have

some military training. Candidates for the upper middle levels of the service must have passed examinations equivalent to those required for graduation from an American university, roughly speaking. They, too, must have passed the examination of a "Wehrmachtfachschule", that is, one of the special service schools of the German army.

Principal Classifications in the Non-Technical and Technical Services. The highest ranking official is the "Intendant" who is the equivalent of our Quartermaster General. His rank places him on a plane of equality with a full general of the line, or a state secretary in a government ministry. Beneath the status of the lowest army civil service official. There are large groups of simple employees ("angestellte" or white collar workers) and ordinary laborers. Not all branches of the service possess all classifications of officials or employees.

The principal branches of the non-technical services are as follows:

Quartermaster's Service("Intendanturdienst")

Army Paymaster Service

Army Architect Service

Army Druggist Service

Army Archives

Army Library

Army Psychological Testing Service

Army Athletics

Army Chemical Service

Army Agricultural Service

Army Radio Reception Service

Army Forestry Service

Army Motion Picture Service

Army Mobilization Service

Army Chaplain Service

Army Special Education Service

The principal branches of the technical services are as follows:

General Technical Service

Artillery Service

Field Equipment Service

Pioneer Service

Signal Service

Motor Transport Service

Fog and Gas Protection Service

Ordnance

Army Billeting Service

Of the following three tables, Table I presents the structure of the administrative branches of the German army which are serviced by civil service officials; Table II attempts to present a picture of their ranks and titles insofar as these can be expressed by English equivalents; Table III attempts to do this for the technical services.

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TABLE I

THE ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES OF THE GERMAN ARMY

	Service	Nature of Task	Under what kind of direction	Other personnel	
1.	Local Army Administration (Heeresstandortverwaltung)	Maintenance and administration of camp sites and their equipment	Official of high administrative civil service	Officials of the high, intermediary, and lower civil service, white collar workers and laborers	
2.	Local army treasuries	Payment of funds arising from local army administration	As in No. 1	As in No. 1 but without laborers	Local army treasuries and pay offices are attached to local army administration.
3.	Army pay office	Payment of wages and salaries of troops, officials and workers	As in No. 1	As in No. 1 but without laborers	
4.	Army architect's office	Discharge of technical tasks of army construction. Cooperates in the choice of construction sites and the determination of construction needs. Responsible for technical execution of approved construction plans	Official of higher technical service (Hochbau)	Official of higher technical service, officials of intermediary civil service and construction employees	

TABLE I
(cont'd)

THE ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES OF THE GERMAN ARMY

	Service	Nature of Task	Under what kind of direction	Other personnel
5.	Quartermaster's office	Provision for army needs	Official of high civil service	Officials of high, intermediary, lower civil service, employees and laborers
6.	Army clothing office	Clothing equipment for soldiers	Army officer	Army officer
7.	Army procurement office	Procurement of materials for clothing, equipment, tents, bakery and hospital equipment, etc.	Official of higher civil service	Officials of higher civil service and employees
8.	Army hospital administration	Discharge of administrative tasks of army hospital affairs	Official of higher civil service	Officials of higher civil service, hospital treasurers

TABLE II

RANKS IN MILITARY CIVIL SERVICE OF THE GERMAN ARMY

Service	Titles of Highest Officials	Upper Middle Officials	Lower Middle Officials
Quartermaster Service	1. Intendant of General Staff 2. Intendant General 3. Intendant Colonel 4. High Intendant-Counsellor 5. Intendant-Counsellor 6. Assessor-Intendant		
Army Paymaster Service	1. High Field-Paymaster 2. High Staff-Paymaster 3. Staff-Paymaster 4. High Paymaster 5. Paymaster		
Army Architecture Service	1. Director of Ministerial Rank 2. Assistant Director of Ministerial Rank 3. Ministerial Counsellor 4. Director of Army Construction 5. High Construction Adviser 6. Construction Adviser 7. Construction Assistant	1. Official Counsellor 2. Technical Administrative Adviser 3. High Construction Inspector 4. Construction Inspector 5. Assistant Construction Inspector	
Army Druggist Service	1. Apothecary Colonel 2. High Field Apothecary 3. Apothecary Colonel of the Staff 4. Staff Apothecary 5. Assistant Staff Apothecary		

Table II
(cont'd.)

RANKS IN MILITARY CIVIL SERVICE OF THE GERMAN ARMY

Service	Titles of Highest Officials	Upper Middle Officials	Lower Middle Officials
Army Archives Service	1. Director of Army Archives 2. High Army Archivist 3. Army Archivist	1. Army Archives Official 2. Inspector Superior 3. Inspector 4. Assistant Inspector	1. Photographer
Army Library Service	1. Director of Army Library 2. Superior Librarian 3. Librarian	1. Army Library Official 2. Superior Library Inspector 3. Library Inspector	
Army Psychological Examination Service	1. Director of Army Aptitude Tests 2. Superior Psychological Adviser 3. Psychological Adviser		
Army Athletics	1. Army Athletics Instructor		
Army Chemical Service	1. Superior Chemist 2. Chemist		
Army Agricultural Service	1. Army Agricultural Economist 2. Assistant Agricultural Economist		
Army Forestry	1. Directing Army Forester 2. Superior Army Forester 3. Army Forester	1. Army Forestry Official 2. Army Forester 3. Assistant Forester (local)	Two grades of lower Army Forestry officials

TABLE III

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RANKS IN TECHNICAL SERVICES OF THE GERMAN ARMY

Service	Titles of Highest Officials	Upper Middle Officials	Lower Middle Officials
General Technical Service	Four grades of Highest Officials		
Artillery Service Field Equipment Fortress Pioneers Automobile Service Signal Corps Artificial Fog and Gas Protection Service Surveying Ordnance		1. Superior Technical Official 2. Technical Official 3. First Technical Inspector 4. Second Technical Inspector	
Ordnance Inspection Service		Four grades of Technical Experts	
Army Motor Transport Service Army Billeting Service Army Machine Service			Three grades of officials
French, Bunker and Fortification Service			One grade

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Table II
(cont'd)

RANKS IN MILITARY CIVIL SERVICE OF THE GERMAN ARMY

Service	Titles of Highest Officials	Upper Middle Officials	Lower Middle Officials
Army Radio Receiving Service		1. Superior Technical Official 2. Superior Technical Inspector 3. Technical Inspector	1. First Secretary 2. Second Secretary 3. Assistant Secretary
Army Equipment Replacement Service		1. Superior Technical Official 2. First Inspector 3. Second Inspector	1. First Secretary 2. Second Secretary 3. Assistant Secretary
Army Motion Picture Service		1. Superior Technical Official 2. First Inspector 3. Second Inspector	1. Operator
Intermediary Non-Technical Adm. Service			1. Ministerial Registrar 2. First Secretary 3. Second Secretary 4. Assistant Secretary

Table II
(cont'd)

RANKS IN MILITARY CIVIL SERVICE OF THE GERMAN ARMY

Service	Titles of Highest Officials	Upper Middle Officials	Lower Middle Officials
Army Tailoring Service			Three grades of tailors
Army Veterinary Service		1. Administrative Inspector	
Judge Advocate General	Eight ranks of Military Judges	Four ranks of Army Judicial Officials	
Army Chaplain Service	1. Field Bishop 2. Dean 3. Superior Chaplain 4. Chaplain		
Army Technical Education	Four grades of Superior Army Educational Officials	Five grades of Technical Educational Officials	Teacher